



Philadelphia Department of Public Health Division of Disease Control

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Health Advisory Influenza Transmission Has Begun Locally December 16, 2010

Surveillance Summary

Influenza transmission has begun to increase in Philadelphia, as local hospital laboratories have identified 11 influenza positive specimens within the last 2 weeks (figure). Seven of these were identified last week alone. Confirmatory testing indicates that 2009 pH1N1, influenza A/H3N2, and influenza B are circulating simultaneously. The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA-DOH) has also reported increasing influenza activity, with the number of laboratory confirmed cases tripling from 19 to 57 in weeks 47 and 48 of 2010, respectively. Nationally, CDC reports that 10.8% of specimens tested positive for influenza, up slightly from the previous week. Antigenic characterization at the CDC virology laboratory indicates that the circulating influenza A/H3N2, pH1N1, and the influenza B strains closely match the strains included in this year's vaccine.

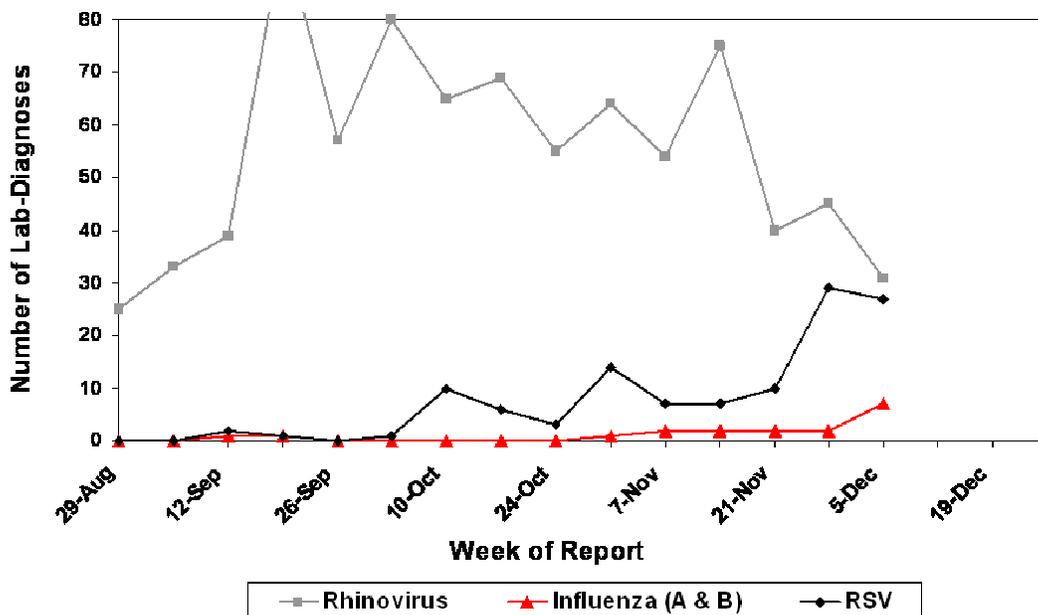
Vaccination remains the optimal way to prevent influenza.

In addition to influenza, respiratory syncytial viruses (RSV) have also increased in circulation over the last several weeks (figure), although RSV activity for this time period is less than in previous years (data not shown). Rhinovirus continues to be the dominant respiratory pathogen in the community, but is declining.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) will provide updates on influenza activity in the form of a weekly influenza surveillance report posted on the Health Information Portal (<https://hip.phila.gov>).

Providers are reminded that all institutional outbreaks of respiratory illness or hospitalized and fatal cases of influenza are to be reported to DDC. Reporting forms are posted on the Health Information Portal and can be faxed to DDC at (215) 238-6947 or called in via (215) 685-6740.

Weekly Laboratory-Based Surveillance for Influenza, RSV, and Rhinovirus: Philadelphia, 2010-2011 Season



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Philadelphia Department of Public Health

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